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Introduction



INTRODUCTION

This product provides information about the release of microdata from the Survey of Income and Housing, Australia, 2011–12. Included is summary information about the survey, details on microdata files and content, information about how to use the files, and conditions of use. Data item lists and information on the quality of the microdata as well as the definitions used are also provided.

Microdata are the most detailed information available from a survey and are generally the responses to individual questions on the questionnaire or data derived from two or more questions. This level of detail is released with the approval of the Australian Statistician.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS

The following microdata products are available from this survey:

- Basic CURF on CD-ROM. and via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). The Basic CD-ROM allows approved users interactive access in the user's own environment (via a CD-ROM/DVD)
- Expanded CURF via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL)

Further information about these services, and other information to assist users in understanding and accessing CURFs in general, is available from the CURF Microdata Entry Page on the ABS web site.

Before you apply for access, users should read and familiarise themselves with the information contained in this product and the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs.

APPLY FOR ACCESS

To apply for access to the CURF products, register and apply in MiCRO.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the microdata products can be found in this product.

More information about the survey and related products can be found in the Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 6553.0).

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Data obtained in the survey but not contained on the CURF may be available from the ABS, on request, as statistics in tabulated form.

Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, special tabulations can be produced incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas selected to meet individual requirements. These are available on request, on a fee for service basis. Contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or client.services@abs.gov.au for further information.

About the Survey



ABOUT THE SURVEY

Overview of the Survey Changes in this Cycle User Guide

OVERVIEW OF THE SURVEY

The Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) collects detailed information about income and personal and household characteristics of persons aged 15 years and over resident in private dwellings throughout Australia. The survey provides detailed information about: demographic and socio-economic characteristics, including education and labour force status; income amounts and sources; housing characteristics, including tenure, dwelling type and housing costs; and child care use and costs. The 2011–12 SIH also provides detailed information about assets and liabilities.

The SIH is currently conducted every 2 years. It is integrated with the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) whenever the HES is run (currently every 6 years). The SIH and HES were last integrated in 2009–10, and are next scheduled to be integrated in 2015–16.

The 2011–12 SIH was conducted on a sample of dwellings throughout Australia from July 2011 to June 2012. These dwellings were selected through a stratified, multistage cluster design. The sample excluded non-private dwellings and dwellings in very remote areas. Selections were distributed across a twelve month enumeration period so that the survey results are representative of income patterns across the year.

Information was collected from all persons aged 15 years and over in selected households. Computer assisted interviewing was used to conduct household and personal interviews. Information from 14,569 households was included in the final estimates.

CHANGES IN THIS CYCLE

The 2011–12 SIH content was largely similar to the 2009–10 SIH with some changes in questions, definitions and methodology. Key changes to the 2011–12 SIH include:

- the 2009–10 SIH was integrated with the Household Expenditure Survey while the 2011–12 SIH was run as a stand alone survey
- a decrease in fully responding sample size from 18,071 households in 2009–10 to 14,569 households in 2011–12. The expansion in the 2009–10 sample for an extra 4,200 households outside capital cities to support housing indicator reporting was maintained. The additional sample of metropolitan households whose main source of income was a government pension, benefit and/or allowance included in the 2009–10 SIH and HES samples to improve analysis for the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index was not maintained
- an additional benchmark for the value of government benefit cash transfers used in 2009–10 was not required in 2011–12
- disability questions for persons aged 15 years and over were not asked in 2011–12, but will be collected in 2013–14

- Child Care Rebate (CCR) and Child Care Benefit (CCB) have been modelled to improve estimates of both the payment amounts and the number of households receiving assistance
- selected social transfers in kind variables have been modelled in 2011–12.

Comparisons with previous SIH CURFs and more detail about changes to specific data items are provided in the Data Item List available from the Downloads tab.

USER GUIDE

Users of the microdata should also refer to the Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 6553.0) for more information to assist in using the survey data, including concepts, definitions, methodology, data collection and processing, final sample sizes, and estimation and analysis techniques.

The remaining sections in this product provide information specifically relevant to using the microdata release files.

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File Structure



FILE STRUCTURE

Record Level Types

Record Counts

Further Information on File Contents

RECORD LEVEL TYPES

Each of the SIH 2011-12 Basic and Expanded CURFs contain the following record levels:

- Household level – contains information such as state or territory and area (capital city/balance of state) of residence, housing characteristics (including tenure and housing costs), dwelling characteristics, household type and composition, household income by broad level source of income, household wealth, imputed rent, demographic information, and some information relating to the household reference person.
- Income unit level – contains information such as income by broad level source of income, weekly rent payments, income unit type, selected housing characteristics (including tenure type and landlord type), child care use and costs, and demographic information.
- Person level – contains information about age, sex, marital status, relationship in household, country of birth, year of arrival in Australia, family type, income unit type, labour force details, occupation and industry, education status, education qualifications and education institution attending, income by detailed source of income, barriers to labour force participation due to child care related reasons, and some information on personal assets. Person records exist only for persons aged 15 and over.
- Loans level – contains information about the characteristics of each loan, such as the main purpose, security, amount borrowed, principal outstanding and weekly repayment.

The first three levels are in a hierarchical relationship: a person is a member of an income unit, which is a member of a household. Level four is in a hierarchical relationship with the household level.

There are several identifiers on records at each level of the file. There are also weights on records at each level of the file to enable the production of estimates for the whole population.

A complete list of the data items available on each record level for the CURFs is available from the Downloads tab.

RECORD COUNTS

The following table shows the number of records on each level of the SIH 2011-12 Basic and Expanded CURFs.

RECORD COUNTS, SIH 2011-12 CURF

| | SIH Basic | SIH Expanded |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Household | 14 569 | 14 569 |
| Income Unit | 17 834 | 17 853 |
| Person | 28 213 | 28 252 |
| Loans | 8 812 | 8 812 |

FURTHER INFORMATION ON FILE CONTENTS

Children under 15

Children under 15 do not have their own person level record on the file. Information on the number and ages of such children was collected and is included on the household and income unit level files.

Using the CURF

The [Using the CURE](#) document on the Summary tab contains more information about the file contents, including identifiers and weights and how to use them, as well as notes on specific data items and data item types available in the microdata release.

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Using the CURF

This document was added or updated on 06/02/2014.



USING THE CURF

About the CURFs

Contents of the CURFs

SIH Basic CURF File Contents

SIH Expanded CURF File Contents

Notes on Specific Data Items

Reliability of Estimates

ABOUT THE CURFs

The 2011–12 SIH Basic and Expanded CURFs contain 4 separate record level files which are described, along with information about record level identifiers, in the [File Structure](#) document on the Summary tab. Subject to the limitations of sample size, the data classifications used, and the conditions of use, it is possible to interrogate the data, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to individual specifications.

The 2011–12 CURFs contain unit records relating to almost all of the survey respondents. The data are released under the **Census and Statistics Act 1905**, which has provision for the release of data in the form of unit records where the information is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. Accordingly, there are no names or addresses of survey respondents on the CURFs and other steps, including the following list of actions, have been taken to protect the confidentiality of respondents:

- For the Basic CURF, persons were removed from households with seven or more persons to reduce them to a maximum household size of six. For the Expanded CURF, persons were removed from households with nine or more persons to reduce them to a maximum household size of eight. This was done across a variety of ages and in ways that minimised the impact on family and relationship coding of other people in the household. This also resulted in the deletion of several whole income units, mainly comprising a single person record only.
- The level of detail for many data items has been reduced (e.g. state of usual residence of the ACT and the NT have been combined as ACT/NT for the Basic CURF, but shown individually for the Expanded CURF; area of usual residence for the ACT and NT has not been made available on the CURFs).
- Most income items, and some wealth, expenditure and loan data have been perturbed.
- Some variables have had values ranged, collapsed or topcoded.
- Changes have been made to some records to protect against identification. Amendments have been made to household level variables and/or person level variables such as geography, age, educational qualifications, industry and/or occupation.

As a consequence, aggregated data obtained from the CURFs are slightly different to that published in Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2011–12 (cat. no. 6523.0), Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution,

Australia, 2011–12 (cat. no. 6554.0) and Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2011–12 (cat. no. 4130.0). Information about comparisons of published estimates and estimates produced from the CURFs for key items and populations is available through the Reconciliation of the CURF Data document on the Summary tab.

Steps to confidentialise the datasets made available on the CURFs are undertaken in such a way as to ensure the integrity of the datasets and optimise the content, while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents. Intending purchasers should ensure that the data they require at the level of detail they require are available on the CURFs; data obtained in the survey but not contained on the CURFs may be available in tabulated form on request. The [Data Item List](#) document in the Summary tab contains information about the list of data items and categories on the SIH 2011–12 Basic and Expanded CURFs which is available as a datacube from the [Downloads](#) tab.

CONTENTS OF THE CURFs

This section provides details of the files included on each of the Basic and Expanded CURFs.

SIH BASIC CURF FILE CONTENTS

The SIH Basic CURF distributed on CD-ROM or via the RADL contains the following files:

Raw data:

These files contain the raw confidentialised survey data in hierarchical comma delimited ASCII text format.

SIH11B.CSV contains all levels data

SIH11BH.CSV contains the Household level data

SIH11BI.CSV contains the Income unit level data

SIH11BP.CSV contains the Person level data

SIH11BL.CSV contains the Loans level data

SAS files:

These files contain the data for the CURF in SAS for Windows format.

SIH11BH.sas7bdat contains the Household level data

SIH11BI.sas7bdat contains the Income unit level data

SIH11BP.sas7bdat contains the Person level data

SIH11BL.sas7bdat contains the Loans level data

SPSS files:

These files contain the data for the CURF in SPSS for Windows format.

SIH11BH.SAV contains the Household level data

SIH11BI.SAV contains the Income unit level data

SIH11BP.SAV contains the Person level data

SIH11BL.SAV contains the Loans level data

STATA files:

These files contain the data for the CURF in STATA format.

SIH11BH.DTA contains the Household level data

SIH11BI.DTA contains the Income unit level data

SIH11BP.DTA contains the Person level data

SIH11BL.DTA contains the Loans level data

Information files:

FORMATS.sas7bcat is a SAS library containing formats

SIH11B.SAS contains a SAS program to run the SAS formats

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.PDF describes the file contents of the CURF and information on using the CURF

COPYRITE1.BAT describes Copyright obligations for CURF users

RESPONSIBLE ACCESS TO CURFs.PDF is an acrobat file explaining CURF users' role and obligations when using confidentialised data

Frequency files:

The following plain text format files contain documentation about data item code values and category labels at each level, with weighted and unweighted frequencies for each value.

FREQUENCIES_SIH11BH.TXT contains documentation of the Household level data

FREQUENCIES_SIH11BI.TXT contains documentation of the Income Unit level data

FREQUENCIES_SIH11BP.TXT contains documentation of the Person level data

FREQUENCIES_SIH11BL.TXT contains documentation of the Loans level data

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SIH EXPANDED CURF FILE CONTENTS

The SIH Expanded CURF can only be accessed via the RADL or the ABSDL, and contains the following files:

Main files:

SIH11EH.sas7bdat contains the file of Household level data in SAS for Windows format

SIH11EI.sas7bdat contains the file of Income unit level data in SAS for Windows format

SIH11EP.sas7bdat contains the file of Person level data in SAS for Windows format

SIH11EL.sas7bdat contains the file of Loans level data in SAS for Windows format

SIH11EH.SAV contains the file of Household level data in SPSS format

SIH11EI.SAV contains the file of Income unit level data in SPSS format

SIH11EP.SAV contains the file of Person level data in SPSS format

SIH11EL.SAV contains the file of Loans level data in SPSS format

SIH11EH.DTA contains the file of Household level data in STATA format

SIH11EI.DTA contains the file of Income unit level data in STATA format

SIH11EP.DTA contains the file of Person level data in STATA format

SIH11EL.DTA contains the file of Loans level data in STATA format

Information files:

FORMATS.sas7bcat is a SAS library containing formats.

Frequency files:

The following plain text format files contain documentation about data item code values and category labels at each level, with weighted and unweighted frequencies for each value.

FREQUENCIES_SIH11EH.TXT contains documentation of the Household level data

FREQUENCIES_SIH11EI.TXT contains documentation of the Income Unit level data

FREQUENCIES_SIH11EP.TXT contains documentation of the Person level data

FREQUENCIES_SIH11EL.TXT contains documentation of the Loans level data

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NOTES ON SPECIFIC DATA ITEMS

The data items included on the CURFs, and the categories within the data items, differ between the Basic and Expanded CURFs. The Expanded CURFs contain more variables than the Basic CURFs as well as more detailed data for selected variables. The data item list also shows the differences between the 2011–12 Basic and Expanded CURFs. Many of the differences result from the difference in the maximum household size permitted on the Basic and Expanded CURFs.

A complete list of the data items available on each record level for the CURFs, including relevant population and classification details, is available from the Downloads tab.

Many of the data items included on the CURFs are self-explanatory. The Glossary provides links to terms and definitions for most of the survey's data items. However, some items require further explanation.

Identifiers

There are several identifiers on records at each level of the file.

Each household has a unique random identifier. This identifier appears on the household level (ABSHID), and is repeated on the income unit, person, expenditure and loans level records relating to that household.

Each family within the household is numbered sequentially. Non family members, single person households and persons in group households have a sequential "family number" commencing at 50. Family number (ABSFID) appears on the income unit level and the person level. The combination of household and family number uniquely identifies a family.

A family has one or more income units and each income unit within the family is numbered sequentially. Income unit number (ABSIID) appears on the income unit level and the person level. The combination of household, family and income unit number uniquely identifies an income unit.

An income unit has one or more persons and each person within the income unit is numbered sequentially. Person number (ABSPID) appears on the person level. The combination of household, family, income unit and person number uniquely identifies a person.

A household may have one or more loans and each loan within the household is numbered sequentially. Loan number (ABSLID) appears on the loans level. The combination of a household and loan number uniquely identifies a loan.

Geographic items

To enable CURF users greater flexibility in their analyses, the ABS has included two Socio-economic Indexes For Area (SEIFA) and several sub-state geography items on the Expanded 2011–12 CURFs. Conditions are placed on the use of these items. Tables showing multiple data items, cross-tabulated by more than one sub-state geography at a time, are not permitted due to the detailed information about small geographic regions that could be presented. However, simple cross-tabulations of population counts by sub-state geographic data items may be useful for clients in order to determine which geography item to include in their primary analysis, and such output is permitted.

Income items

The person level records contain detailed information on income by source. The income unit and household level records contain information at a broader level. If detailed information is required for income analyses at the income

unit or household level, this can be calculated by aggregating the person level information for each income unit or household. Income is recorded on both a 'current' and a 'previous financial year' basis. For more information about current and previous financial year income, see Part 1.2 'Current, annual and weekly income' in Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2011–12 (cat. no. 6553.0) .

Where possible, supplementary items have been included on the file which replicate the content of the items that have been included on previous issues of the SIH CURFs. The SIH files include two income aggregates, "Total current weekly income from all sources" and "Total current weekly income from all sources (2005–06 basis)".

'Total current weekly income from all sources'

The publications relating to the 2011–12 SIH use this measure of income. It is consistent with the measure of income used in 2007–08 and 2009–10.

The component items of "Total current weekly income from all sources" are:

- Current weekly cash employee income from main job (incl. salary sacrifice and bonuses)
 - Total current weekly employee income (incl. overtime, salary sacrifice, bonuses and STRP)
 - Current weekly cash employee income from main job (incl. salary sacrifice)
 - Total current weekly non cash benefits from employer (non–salary sacrifice)
 - Current weekly employee cash income from bonuses
 - Expected current weekly paid overtime this financial year
 - Current weekly employee income from second job
 - Current weekly income from paid–out unused leave
 - Current weekly income from redundancy pay
 - Other wage and salary income – reported as other sources
- Current weekly cash income from own unincorporated business (reported)
- Total current weekly income from government pensions and allowances
 - Current weekly income from Austudy/Abstudy
 - Current weekly income from age pension
 - Current weekly income from carer allowance
 - Current weekly income from carer payment
 - Current weekly income from carer supplement
 - Current weekly income from clean energy advance
 - Current weekly income from disability pension, (DVA)
 - Current weekly income from disability support pension
 - Current weekly income from education tax refund
 - Current weekly income from family tax benefits (modelled)
 - Current weekly income from Baby Bonus
 - Current weekly income from Paid Parental Leave
 - Current weekly income from Newstart allowance
 - Current weekly income from other government pensions and allowances
 - Current weekly income from overseas pensions and benefits
 - Current weekly income from parenting payment
 - Current weekly income from partner allowance
 - Current weekly income from service pension (DVA)
 - Current weekly income from sickness allowance
 - Current weekly income from special benefit
 - Current weekly income from utilities allowance
 - Current weekly income from war widow's pension (DVA)
 - Current weekly income from widow allowance
 - Current weekly income from wife pension
 - Current weekly income from youth allowance
 - Current weekly income from pension supplement
 - Current weekly income from seniors supplement
- Total current weekly income from investments (incl. silent partner income, shares/trusts net of expenses)
 - Current weekly income from financial institution account interest (excl offset accounts) (reported)
 - Current weekly income from interest on debentures and bonds (reported)
 - Current weekly income from interest on loans to persons not in this household (reported)
 - Current weekly income from non–residential property (reported)
 - Current weekly income from residential property (reported)
 - Current weekly income from royalties (reported)
 - Current weekly income as beneficiary of a trust (excl. public unit trusts and employment income)
 - Current weekly income as silent partner
 - Current weekly income from other financial investments (reported)
 - Current weekly income from dividends from own incorporated businesses and trusts

- (reported)
- Current weekly income from offset accounts
- Current weekly net income from public unit trusts
- Current weekly net income from dividends from shares
- Total current weekly income from other sources (incl. workers' compensation lump sums)
 - Total current weekly income from other regular sources
 - Current weekly income from accident compensation and sickness insurance
 - Current weekly income from child support/maintenance
 - Current weekly income from family members not living in the household
 - Current weekly income from regular workers' compensation
 - Current weekly income from scholarships
 - Current weekly income from superannuation/annuity/private pension
 - Current weekly income from regular sources n.e.c
 - Current weekly income from workers' compensation lump sum.

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'Total current weekly income from all sources (2005-06 basis)'

This measure of income is comparable to that used in the publications relating to the 2005–06 survey however, there are some differences related to changes and improvements in the collection of information about sources of income that were introduced in 2007–08. The differences are the use of improved reported income from trusts and the inclusion of a broader measure of income from family members outside the household instead of restriction to regular, cash income from persons outside the household.

The component items of "Total current weekly income from all sources (2005–06 basis)" in 2011–12 are:

- Total current weekly employee cash income (incl. salary sacrifice)
 - Current weekly cash employee income from main job (incl. salary sacrifice)
 - Current weekly employee income from second job
 - Other wage and salary income – reported as other sources
- Current weekly cash income from own unincorporated business (reported)
- Total current weekly income from government pensions and allowances (2005–06 basis)
 - Current weekly income from Austudy/Abstudy
 - Current weekly income from age pension
 - Current weekly income from carer allowance
 - Current weekly income from carer payment
 - Current weekly income from carer supplement
 - Current weekly income from clean energy advance
 - Current weekly income from disability pension (DVA)
 - Current weekly income from disability support pension
 - Current weekly income from education tax refund
 - Current weekly income from family tax benefits (modelled) – (2005–06 basis)
 - Current weekly income from Baby Bonus
 - Current weekly income from Paid Parental Leave
 - Current weekly income from Newstart allowance
 - Current weekly income from other government pensions and allowances
 - Current weekly income from overseas pensions and benefits
 - Current weekly income from parenting payment
 - Current weekly income from partner allowance
 - Current weekly income from service pension (DVA)
 - Current weekly income from sickness allowance
 - Current weekly income from special benefit
 - Current weekly income from utilities allowance
 - Current weekly income from war widow's pension
 - Current weekly income from widow allowance
 - Current weekly income from wife pension
 - Current weekly income from youth allowance
 - Current weekly income from pension supplement
 - Current weekly income from seniors supplement
- Total current weekly income from investments (reported)
 - Current weekly income from dividends (reported)
 - Current weekly income from financial institution account interest (excl offset accounts) (reported)
 - Current weekly income from offset accounts
 - Current weekly income from interest on debentures and bonds (reported)
 - Current weekly income from interest on loans to persons not in this household (reported)
 - Current weekly income from non–residential property (reported)
 - Current weekly income from residential property (reported)

- Current weekly income from royalties (reported)
- Current weekly income from public unit trusts
- Current weekly income as beneficiary of a trust (excl. public unit trusts and employment income)
- Current weekly income as silent partner
- Current weekly income from other financial investments (reported)
- Total current weekly income from other regular sources
 - Current weekly income from accident compensation and sickness insurance
 - Current weekly income from child support/maintenance
 - Current weekly income from family members not living in the household
 - Current weekly income from regular workers' compensation
 - Current weekly income from scholarships
 - Current weekly income from superannuation/annuity/private pension
 - Current weekly income from regular sources n.e.c.

2005–06 Basis Income Data Amendments

An error was identified after release for the data item "Total current weekly income from government pensions and allowances (2005–06 basis)" which inadvertently omits "Current weekly income from disability support pension". This item is used in calculation of a number of other items. The following items are affected and require re-deriving before use:

Person Level

- Total current weekly income from government pensions and allowances (2005–06 basis) (ITGCBCP6)
- Total current weekly income from all sources (2005–06 basis) (INCTSCP)
- Main source of current income (2005–06 basis) (PSRCSCP)

Household Level

- Current weekly HH income from government pensions and allowances (2005–06 basis) (ITGCBCH6)
- Total current weekly HH income from all sources (2005–06 basis) (INCTSCH)
- Current weekly HH disposable income (2005–06 basis) (DISPSCH)
- Main source of current HH income (2005–06 basis) (PSRCSCH)
- Current weekly equivalised HH disposable income (2005–06 basis) (EQDSPSCH)

Income Unit Level

- Current weekly IU income from government pensions and allowances (2005–06 basis) (ITGCBCU6)
- Total current weekly IU income from all sources (2005–06 basis) (INCTSCU)
- Main source of current IU income (2005–06 basis) (PSRCSCU)

These items can be re-derived using existing variables on the dataset as per the instructions below. All derivations must be derived in the order presented for the correction to be applied. Example SAS code can be obtained upon request by contacting Microdata Access Strategies.

Person Level

Total current weekly income from government pensions and allowances (2005–06 basis) (ITGCBCP6)

Sum of:

- Current weekly income from age pension (IAGECP)
- Current weekly income from Austudy/Abstudy (IAUSTCP)
- Current weekly income from Baby Bonus payment (IMATCP)
- Current weekly income from carer allowance (ICAREACP)
- Current weekly income from carer payment (ICAREPCP)
- Current weekly income from carer supplement (ICARESCP)
- Current weekly income from clean energy advance (ICEACP)
- Current weekly income from disability pension (DVA) (IDISBCP)
- Current weekly income from disability support pension (IDSUPPCP)
- Current weekly income from education tax refund (ISKBCP)
- Current weekly income from family tax benefits (modelled) (2005–06 basis) (IFTBCP6)
- Current weekly income from newstart allowance (INEWLSCP)
- Current weekly income from other government pensions and allowances (IOTHPCP)
- Current weekly income from overseas pensions and benefits (IOSEASCP)
- Current weekly income from parenting payment (IPARENCP)
- Current weekly income from partner allowance (IPARTNCP)

- Current weekly income from Paid Parental Leave payment (IPPLCP)
- Current weekly income from pension supplement (IPSUPCP)
- Current weekly income from senior supplement (ISSUPCP)
- Current weekly income from service pension (DVA) (ISERVCP)
- Current weekly income from sickness allowance (ISICKCP)
- Current weekly income from special benefit (ISPECCP)
- Current weekly income from utilities allowance (IUTILCP)
- Current weekly income from war widows pension (DVA) (IWARWCP)
- Current weekly income from widow allowance (IWIDOWCP)
- Current weekly income from wife pension (IWIFECP)
- Current weekly income from youth allowance (IYOUTHCP)

Total current weekly income from all sources (2005–06 basis) (INCTSCP)

Sum of:

- Total current weekly employee income (incl salary sacrifice) (IWSSUCP)
- Total current weekly income from investments (reported) (INVESTCP)
- Total current weekly income from government pensions and allowances (2005–06 basis) (ITGCB6P6)
- Total current weekly income from other regular sources (ITREGCP)
- Current weekly cash income from own unincorporated business (reported) (IOBTCP).

Main source of current income (2005–06 basis) (PSRCSCP)

If “Total current weekly income from all sources (2005–06 basis)” is equal to or less than zero then assign “0. Zero or negative income”. Otherwise “Main source of current income (2005–06 basis)” is assigned from maximum value of the following:

- Total current weekly employee income (incl salary sacrifice) (IWSSUCP) code to ‘1. Wage and salary’.
- Current weekly cash income from own unincorporated business (reported) (IOBTCP) code to “2. Own unincorporated business income”.
- Total current weekly income from government pensions and allowances (2005–06 basis) (ITGCB6P6) code to “3. Government pensions and allowances”.
- Total current weekly income from investments (reported) (INVESTCP) + Total current weekly income from other regular sources (ITREGCP) code to “4. Other income”.

If there are two sources of income with equal maximum value, the main source of income is determined by the order of the classifications as listed on the Data Item List. For example, if ‘Wages and Salaries’ is equal to ‘Government pensions and allowances’, then Main source of current income (2005–06 basis) is “1. Wage and salary”.

Current weekly disposable income (2005–06 basis)

This Item is required for the deviation of “Current weekly equivalised HH disposable income (2005–06 basis)” (EQDSPSCH) at the household level.

- Total current weekly income from all sources (2005–06 basis) (INCTSCP) subtract Imputed current weekly tax payable (2005–06 basis) (ITAXCP)

Household Level

Current weekly HH income from government pensions and allowances (2005–06 basis) (ITGCBCH6)

- Sum of all person “Total current weekly income from government pensions and allowances (2005–06 basis)” within household.

Total current weekly HH income from all sources (2005–06 basis) (INCTSCH)

- Sum of all person “Total current weekly income from all sources (2005–06 basis)” within household.

Current weekly HH disposable income (2005–06 basis) (DISPSCH)

- Sum of all person “Current weekly disposable income (2005–06 basis)” within household.

Main source of current HH income (2005–06 basis) (PSRCSCH)

If "Total current weekly HH income from all sources (2005–06 basis)" is equal to or less than zero then assign "0. Zero or negative income". Otherwise "Main source of current HH income (2005–06 basis)" is assigned from maximum value of the following:

- Current weekly HH employee income (2005–06 basis) (IWSSUCH) code to '1. Wage and salary'.
- Current weekly HH income from own unincorporated business (IOBTCH) code to '2. Own unincorporated business income'.
- Current weekly HH income from government pensions and allowances (2005–06 basis) (ITGCBCH6) code to "3. Government pensions and allowances".
- Current weekly HH income from investments (2005–06 basis)" (INVESTCH) + Current weekly HH income from superannuation/annuity/private pension (ISUPERCH) + Current weekly HH income from other regular sources (excluding superannuation) (OTHSRCH) code to "4. Other income".

If there are two sources of income with equal maximum value, the main source of income is determined by the order of the classifications as listed on the Data Item List.

Current weekly equivalised HH disposable income (2005–06 basis) (EQDSPSCH)

- Current weekly HH disposable income (2005–06 basis) (DISPCH) divided by HH equivalising factor (EQUIVH)

Income Unit Level

Current weekly IU income from government pensions and allowances (2005–06 basis) (ITGCBCU6)

- Sum of all person Total current weekly income from government pensions and allowances (2005–06 basis) within income unit.

Total current weekly IU income from all sources (2005–06 basis) (INCTSCU)

- Sum of all person Total current weekly income from all sources (2005–06 basis) within income unit.

Main source of current IU income (2005–06 basis) (PSRCSCU)

If Total current weekly IU income from all sources (2005–06 basis) is equal to or less than zero then assign "0. Zero or negative income". Otherwise Main source of current IU income (2005–06 basis) is assigned from maximum value of the following:

- Current weekly IU employee income (2005–06 basis) (IWSSUCU) code to "1. Wage and salary".
- Current weekly IU income from own unincorporated business (IOBTCU) code to "2. Own unincorporated business income".
- Current weekly IU income from government pensions and allowances (2005–06 basis) (ITGCBCU6) code to "3. Government pensions and allowances".
- Current weekly IU income from investments (2005–06 basis) (INVESTCU) + Current weekly IU income from superannuation/annuity/private pension (ISUPERCU) + Current weekly IU income from other regular sources (excluding superannuation) (OTHSRCU) code to "4. Other income".

If there are two sources of income with equal maximum value, the main source of income is determined by the order of the classifications as listed on the Data Item List.

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Previous financial year exclusion flag

The previous financial year exclusion flag at the person level (FINSCOPE) has a value of 1 for females whose family situation changed since 1 July 2010 (by moving in with a new partner, separating from a partner or becoming widowed) and for persons who arrived in Australia during 2011–12. At the income unit level a value of 1 in the previous financial year exclusion flag (FINSOPU) indicates income units where the reference person or spouse has FINSCOPE=1. At the household level the previous financial year exclusion flag (FINSOPH) indicates households where the reference person or spouse of one of the income units in the household has FINSCOPE=1. Users wishing to analyse previous financial year income data may wish to exclude such persons from their analysis (by limiting their analysis to records where FINSCOPE=2).

Assets and liabilities

The 2011–12 survey collected information on a comprehensive range of household assets and liabilities to enable analysis of net worth and its components across households. Similar data was collected for 2003–04, 2005–06 and 2009–10.

Housing costs

Weekly housing costs included on previous SIH CURFs and used in the publication Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2011–12 (cat. no. 4130.0) is labelled on the 2011–12 CURFs as "Weekly housing costs (SIHC basis)" and has the field name HCOSTSH. The component items are:

- Weekly rent payments (WKRENTCH), where Tenure type = renter
- Weekly general and water rates payments (RATESCH), where Tenure type = owner
- Weekly general rates payments (RATESGCH)
- Weekly water rates payments (RATESWCH)
- Weekly combined rates payments (RATESCCH)
- Weekly mortgage repayments to purchase/build (TRPAY1CH), where Tenure type = owner with mortgage
- Weekly mortgage repayments for alterations/additions (TRPAY2CH), where Tenure type = owner with mortgage
- Weekly repayments on unsecured loans for housing purposes (TRPAY4CH), where Tenure type = owner with mortgage.

Note that the mortgage and loan repayments in the items listed above are allocated according to the main purpose of the loan. For example, if a loan was taken out primarily to buy a dwelling, but part of it was used to purchase a car, the entire repayment amount is included in housing costs.

In the 2011–12 publications, housing costs have continued to be measured using HCOSTSH, in order to provide comparability with earlier issues.

However, in SIH surveys since 2003–04, extra information on housing costs has been collected.

- Where a payment has been refunded by a business or someone outside the household, the amount of the refund was collected.
- Where a loan had multiple purposes, details of all purposes were collected, so repayments can be allocated to each purpose in accordance with the percentage split of the original loan amount by purpose
- Loan repayments were able to be split into an interest component and a component representing repayment of principal. It could be argued that housing costs should only include the interest component – the portion of loan repayments that represents repayment of principal is a form of saving and possibly should not be regarded as part of housing costs.
- Information on body corporate payments was collected.
- Information on housing costs was collected from all tenure types. For example payments for water were collected from renters as well as owners.

An alternative series of housing cost items has been included on the CURFs in addition to the housing cost items traditionally included on SIH CURFs. The new item "Weekly housing costs (after refunds, interest only, incl. body corp, loans prorated by purpose, no tenure adjustment)" has the field name HCOSTS2H and has the following components:

- Weekly rent payments with refunds deducted (WKRENTRF)
- Weekly body corporate payments (BCORPCH)
- Weekly body corporate payments with refunds deducted (BCORPRCH)
- Weekly general and water rates payments with refunds deducted (RATESRCH)
- Weekly general rates payments with refunds deducted (RATERGCH)
- Weekly water rates payments with refunds deducted (RATERWCH)
- Weekly combined rates payments with refunds deducted (RATERCCH)
- Weekly mortgage repayments to purchase/build (interest component with refunds deducted) (TINT1CH)
- Weekly repayments on unsecured loans for housing purposes (interest component with refunds deducted) (TINT4CH).

Note that the items TINT1CH and TINT4CH all only include the proportion of the loan used for that purpose. A number of other related items are included on the CURF:

- TOWE1CH, TOWE2CH, TOWE3ACH and TOWE4CH record the amount owing on mortgages/loans, allocated according to their main purpose

- TOWE1C2, TOWE2C2, TOWE3AC2 and TOWE4C2 record the amount owing on mortgages/loans, allocated according to the proportion of loan used for each purpose
- TRPAY1RF, TRPAY2RF, TRPAY3ARF and TRPAY4RF record loan/mortgage repayments, allocated according to the proportion of loan used for each purpose.

Imputed rent

The SIH CURFs include estimates of imputed rent for owner-occupied dwellings. The imputation has also been applied to other housing tenures in order to value the in-kind benefit conferred to households paying subsidised rent or households occupying their dwelling rent free. Including imputed rent as part of household income and expenditure conceptually treats owner-occupiers as if they were renting their home from themselves, thus simultaneously incurring rental expenditure and earning rental income. Inclusion of imputed rent estimates in income measures is in accord with international standards for household income statistics, and provides a broader picture of the economic well-being of owner-occupier households and their social and economic circumstances relative to other households.

The imputed rent estimates have been included on the SIH CURFs. Two household level variables are included, 'Weekly gross imputed rent' and 'Weekly HH income from net imputed rent'. Gross imputed rent is the market value of the rental equivalent, and has been estimated using hedonic regression. Net imputed rent for owner occupiers has been derived by subtracting the housing costs normally paid by landlords (i.e. rates, mortgage interest, insurance, repairs and maintenance) from gross imputed rent. Income totals incorporating the imputed rent estimates have not been included. Users wishing to analyse the effect of imputed rent on income should add net imputed rent to household income. When analysing household expenditure, gross imputed rent should be added and any housing costs normally paid by a landlord should be deducted. For further information refer to Part 1.12 'Imputed rent estimates' in Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2011–12 (cat. no. 6553.0).

Social transfers in kind

The SIH CURFs include estimates of social transfers in kind at the household level. Social transfers in kind consist of goods and services provided free or at subsidised prices by the government. Information reported in the SIH was used as the basis for allocating government social transfers in kind to households based on the composition of households and the characteristics of their members. The value of government social transfers in kind for education, health, housing, social security and welfare, and electricity concessions and rebates (indirect benefits) is added to disposable income to derive disposable income plus social transfers in kind. Final income is equal to disposable income plus social transfers in kind less taxes on production. For further information refer to Appendix 4 'Social transfers in kind' in Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2011–12 (cat. no. 6553.0).

Imputation flags

Imputation flags exist for each module in the questionnaire, rather than for specific data items. A value of 1 (partially imputed) indicates that at least one question in that module was imputed. Referring to the contents of the questionnaire module can provide an indication of whether particular data items may have included imputed data. The number of flags with a value of 1 for a particular record provides an indication of the extent of imputation in that record. A value of 2 (fully imputed) indicates that a person record has been fully imputed. In households where one or more people did not respond, person records were imputed if the non-responding persons was not a 'significant person'.

Payments to non household members

The financial resources available to certain persons can be affected by regular payments that they may make to provide support for persons outside the household. Information on payments for child support, alimony to former spouse, and payments to family members not in the household have been included on the CURFs.

Multiple response data items

The child care topic contains a number of multiple response data items on the 2011–12 CURFs. In these instances respondents were able to select one or more response categories, and the output data items are multi-response in nature. This section describes these items and provides some information on how to use them.

On the Basic and Expanded CURFs, the data items are:

Income unit

- 'Types of formal child care income unit used in the last 4 weeks' (TYPFCIUA–TYPFCIUF)
- 'Types of informal child care income unit used in the last 4 weeks' (TYICIUA–TYICIUH)

Person level

- 'All reasons lack of child care prevents parent from working' (UNMET07A–UNMET07J)

These items capture multiple responses where a person provides more than one type of child care. The first response is captured in the first, or 'A', position (e.g. TYPFCIUA), and additional responses are in the second and then third and higher, or 'B' and 'C' and higher, positions (e.g. TYPFCIUB, TYPFCIUC). If only one response is possible, for example 'none of the above' then this response may also appear in the 'A' position. If a data item does not apply (e.g. an income unit does not use child care) then a value of 9 or 99 for 'Not applicable' will appear in the first position (e.g. TYPFCIUA). The 'Null response' (value of 0 or 00) is a default code and should be ignored. All of these categories should be used in analysis. For specific information on the number of item repeats and the category labels and values refer to the data item list available from the Downloads tab.

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RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

Use of weights

As the survey was conducted on a sample of private households in Australia, it is important to take account of the method of sample selection when deriving estimates from the CURF. This is particularly important as a person's chance of selection in the survey varied depending on the state or territory in which the person lived. If these chances of selection are not accounted for, by use of appropriate weights, the results will be biased.

Each household, income unit, person and loan record contains a weight. This weight indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

Weights for each member of the household are the same as the weight for the household itself. Information for sampled households can be multiplied by the weights to produce estimates for the whole population. For further information on the weighting process, refer to Part 2.6 'Benchmarks and weighting of survey results' in Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2011–12 (cat. no. 6553.0).

If estimates of population sub groups are to be derived from the CURF, it is essential that they are calculated by adding the weights of persons/households in each category and not just by counting the number in each category. If each person's/household's weight were to be ignored when analysing the data to draw inferences about the population, then no account would be taken of a person's/household's chance of selection or of different response rates across population groups, with the result that the estimates produced could be seriously biased. The application of weights ensures that estimates will conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, by sex, etc. rather than to the distributions within the sample itself.

It should be noted that as a result of some of the changes made to protect confidentiality on the CURF, estimates of benchmarked items produced from the CURF may not equal the benchmarked values. For further information refer to the 'Reconciliation of the CURF data' document in this product.

Relative sampling error

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non sampling error and sampling error. For further information on non-sampling and sampling error refer to Part 2.8 'Reliability of Estimates' in Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2011–12 (cat. no. 6553.0).

Each record on the CURF contains 60 'replicate weights' in addition to the 'main weight'. These replicate weights can be used to derive estimates of standard error.

The basic idea behind the replication approach is to select subsamples repeatedly (60 times) from the whole sample. For each of these subsamples the statistic of interest is calculated. The variance of the full sample statistic is then estimated using the variability among the replicate statistics calculated from the subsamples. As well as enabling variances of estimates to be calculated relatively simply, replicate weights also enable unit record analyses such as chi-square tests and logistic regression to be conducted which take into account the complex sample design.

There are various ways of creating replicate subsamples from the full sample. The replicate weights produced for the 2011–12 SIH have been created using a group jack knife method of replication. The formulae for calculating the SE and RSE of an estimate using this method are:

$$SE(y) = \sqrt{(59/60) \sum_g (y_{(g)} - y)^2}$$

where

$g = 1, \dots, 60$ (the no. of replicate groups)

$y(g)$ = weighted estimate, having applied the weights for replicate group g

y = weighted estimate from the full sample.

$RSE(y) = SE(y)/y * 100\%$.

It is not clear that the jack knife method will provide good estimates for the variance of quantile boundaries such as the median, (see Rao, J.N.K., Wu, C.F.J., and Yue, K., (1992) for some recent work on resampling methods for complex surveys: Survey Methodology, vol. 18, pp. 209–217). An indirect approach (known as the Woodruff method) is available for estimating the variance of a quantile based on replicate weights (see Sarndal, Swenson and Wretman: Model Assisted Survey Sampling, Springer–Verlag, 1992).

To enable CURF users to check that they are using the replicate weights correctly, RSEs for selected key items have been calculated from the SIH Expanded CURF, and are presented as part of the sample tabulations available from the Downloads tab. The RSEs for estimates other than medians have been calculated using the group jack knife method, and RSEs for the medians have been calculated using the Woodruff method.

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Reconciliation of the CURF data



RECONCILIATION OF THE CURF DATA

RECONCILIATION OF CURF DATA AGAINST PUBLISHED ESTIMATES

It is not possible to reconcile exactly the data produced from the CURF with published data. This is as a result of the steps taken to preserve confidentiality. These steps include:

- large households have been reduced to a maximum of eight people on the Expanded CURF and six people on the Basic CURF
- the level of detail for some data items has been reduced (for example, state of usual residence of the ACT and the NT have been combined as ACT/NT for the Basic CURF, but shown individually for the Expanded CURF; area of usual residence for the ACT and NT has not been made available)
- most income items, and some wealth and loan data have been perturbed
- some variables have had values ranged, collapsed or topcoded
- demographic information of some respondents has been changed.

A sample tabulation of SIH data for reconciliation and validation purposes is available from the Downloads tab. It presents key household income and characteristics estimates produced from the unconfidentialised file along with equivalent estimates from both the Expanded and Basic CURFs. A table showing the RSEs for the sample tabulation of the Expanded CURF estimates is also included.

Note that the full population estimate derived from the Basic CURF (22,090,520) is lower than that obtained from the Expanded CURF (22,183,105), and the unconfidentialised file (22,189,022). This is due to weights not being recalibrated to compensate for the reduction in household sizes on the CURFs.

Imputed rent data

The estimate of mean net imputed rent for 2011–12 is \$106.24 per week. Estimates of mean net imputed rent produced from the SIH CURFs and the unconfidentialised file for all households vary by 10 cents. Users should refer to Table 18 in Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2011–12 (cat. no. 6523.0) when validating estimates of imputed rent by tenure type. Estimates produced from the CURFs may differ slightly from those shown in the publications, because of action taken to ensure confidentiality.

Data Item List



DATA ITEM LIST

The 2011-12 Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) collected information using a household and personal questionnaires. The Basic and Expanded CURFs contain information at household, income unit, person and loans levels. Users intending to purchase the CURFs should ensure that the data they require, and the level of detail they need, are available in these products.

Subject to the limitations of sample size, the data classifications used, and the conditions of use, it is possible to interrogate the CURF data, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to individual specifications.

A complete list of all data items included on the CURF, including relevant population and classification details, is available in the Downloads tab. The spreadsheet has 11 worksheets containing the following information:

- information about the data item list
- contents
- subject index
- field index
- household level data items
- income unit level data items
- person level data items
- loans level data items
- differences in data items between the 2011–12 Basic and Expanded CURFs
- comparison of data items available between the 2011–12 and previous SIH CURFs (since a topic/item was last available)
- differences in data items between 2009–10 and 2011–12 CURFs.

Conditions of Use



CONDITIONS OF USE

User Responsibilities

Conditions of Sale

Price

How to Apply for Access

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Further Information

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Census and Statistics Act includes a legislative guarantee to respondents that their confidentiality will be protected. This is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the ABS, and that trust is in turn fundamental to the excellent quality of ABS information. Without that trust, survey respondents may be less forthcoming or truthful in answering our questionnaires. For more information, see 'Avoiding inadvertent disclosure in published statistics' and 'Microdata' on our web page [How the ABS keeps your information confidential](#).

The release of CURF data is authorised by clause 7 of the Statistics Determination made under subsection 13(1) of the Census and Statistics Act 1905. The release of a CURF must satisfy the ABS legislative obligation to release information in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation.

This legislation allows the Australian Statistician to approve release of unit record data. All CURFs released have been approved by the Statistician. Prior to being granted access to CURFs, each organisation's Responsible Officer must submit a CURF Undertaking to the ABS. The CURF Undertaking is required by legislation and states that, prior to CURFs being released to an organisation, a Responsible Officer must undertake to ensure that the organisation will abide by the conditions of use of CURFs. Individual users are bound by the undertaking signed by the Responsible Officer.

All CURF users are required to read and abide by the conditions and restrictions in the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs. Any breach of the CURF Undertaking may result in withdrawal of service to individuals and/or organisations. Further information is contained in the [Consequences of Failing to Comply](#) web page.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS Conditions of Sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be emailed to intermediary.management@abs.gov.au.

PRICE

Microdata access is priced according to ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. For details refer to ABS Pricing Policy on the ABS website. For microdata prices refer to the Microdata prices web page.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ACCESS

Clients wishing to access the microdata should read the How to Apply for Microdata web page. Clients should familiarise themselves with the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs and other related microdata information which are available via the Microdata Entry Page, before applying for access through MiCRO.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides participating universities with access to a range of ABS products and services. This includes access to microdata. For further information, university clients should refer to the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement web page.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Microdata Entry page on the ABS website contains links to microdata related information to assist users to understanding and access microdata. For further information users should email microdata.access@abs.gov.au or telephone (02) 6252 7714.

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About this Release

The following microdata products are available from the Survey of Income and Housing, Australia, 2011-12:

- Basic CURF on CD-ROM
- Expanded CURF via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL)

Apply online for access to these products at www.abs.gov.au/about/microdata.

These products provide estimates of income received by households, classified by various characteristics of the households and their residents (eg income amounts, main source of household income, family composition, tenure type, age, employment status). Also available are housing costs, wealth, loans, child care and social transfers in kind. A detailed list of data items is available on the Downloads tab.

The microdata enables users to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data. Steps to confidentialise the dataset are taken to ensure the integrity of data and maintain confidentiality of respondents. This includes removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories.

SIH files are arranged in a hierarchy, made up of the following 4 levels:

1. Household
2. Income Unit
3. Person
4. Loans

History of Changes

This document was added or updated on 14/10/2016.

14/10/2016

Replacement of Using the CURF page to change the file names **SIH12B** to **SIH11B** for the Basic CURF and **SIH12E** to **SIH11E** for the Expanded CURF to match the correct CURF file names.

06/02/2014

Replacement of Data Item List to correct classification categories available for Year of arrival in Australia (person level) and Country of Birth of HH reference person (household level), additional information for users to resolve an error in '2005-06 basis' income items, and removing references to Expanded CURF test files which are no longer

supported.

Explanatory Notes

Glossary

GLOSSARY

For a list of terms and definitions used in the 2011-12 Survey of Income and Housing products, refer to the Glossary in the Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 6553.0).

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

For a list of abbreviations used in the 2011-12 Survey of Income and Housing products, refer to the Abbreviations in the Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 6553.0).

A list of additional abbreviations specific to the microdata product is provided below.

| | |
|--------|---|
| ABSCQ | Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications |
| ABSDL | Australian Bureau of Statistics Data Laboratory |
| ANZSCO | Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations |
| ANZSIC | Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification |
| ASCED | Australian Standard Classification of Education |
| CD-ROM | compact disc read-only memory |
| RADL | Remote Access Data Laboratory |
| SAS | software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis |
| SPSS | software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis |
| STATA | software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis |

Quality Declaration

QUALITY DECLARATION

Institutional Environment

Relevance

Timeliness

Accuracy

Coherence

Interpretability

Accessibility

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are released in accordance with the conditions specified in the Statistics Determination section of the **Census and Statistics Act 1905**. This ensures that confidentiality is maintained whilst enabling micro level data to be released. More information on the confidentiality practices associated with CURFs can be found at the About CURF Microdata page.

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

Microdata from the Survey of Income and Housing are available as a Basic and an Expanded CURF.

The type of information collected includes estimates of income received by households, classified by various characteristics of the households and their residents (e.g. income quintile, principal source of household income, family composition, tenure type, age, employment status). Also available are housing costs, wealth, loans, child care and social transfers in kind.

The level of detail provided for selected data items are available within the data item lists. Also included in the data item list is a comparison between the 2011-12 Basic and Expanded CURF, and comparisons with previous CURFs. The data item list for the Basic and Expanded CURF can be found by clicking on the Downloads tab of this product.

TIMELINESS

The most recent Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) was collected from July 2011 to June 2012. The ABS has been conducting household income surveys since 1979, and has been conducting the SIH every two years since 2003-04. Initial summary and microdata products commence release approximately 12 months after enumeration is completed. The next SIH is currently being conducted for 2013-14.

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ACCURACY

The microdata contains finer levels of detail of data items than what is otherwise published in other formats, for example, in Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 6523.0). For more information on the level of detail provided, please see the associated data item list from the Downloads tab.

For details about the 2011-12 Survey of Income and Housing, please refer to the Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 6553.0).

Steps to confidentialise the data made available on the microdata are taken in such a way as to maximise the usefulness of the content while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents selected in the survey. As a result it may not be possible to exactly reconcile all the statistics produced from the microdata with other published statistics. Further information about the steps taken to confidentialise the microdata is available through the following link:

[CURF confidentiality.](#)

COHERENCE

Results from the most recent survey on this topic were published in Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 6523.0). Data on earlier topics can be found on the Past and Future Releases page or by contacting the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

For more information on the changes to SIH over time, please refer to Part 4 'Changes from Previous Surveys' in the Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 6553.0).

The CURF data item list also includes comparisons at the data item level with previous SIH CURFs, including lists of new items and items no longer included (since a topic was last available), and a list of items which have had minor changes (e.g. changes to data item labels or categories). The data item list for the Basic and Expanded CURF can be found by clicking on the Downloads tab of this product.

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INTERPRETABILITY

The information within this product should be referred to when using the microdata. It contains information about the microdata outputs, including file structures and contents, specific information relating to how to use the CURF, notes on specific data items, conditions of use, data item listings and comparisons of estimates.

Users of the microdata should use this information in conjunction with information about the survey and topics more generally. The Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 6553.0) includes information on survey concepts, methods and design, data quality and interpretation, output data items, information about the availability of results and comparability with previous surveys.

ACCESSIBILITY

Microdata products are available to approved users. Users wishing to access the microdata should read the How to apply for Microdata web page, before applying for access through MiCRO. Users should also familiarise with information available via the Microdata Entry Page.

A full list of available microdata can be viewed via the Expected and available Microdata. More detail regarding types and modes of access to CURFs can be found on the CURF Access Modes and Levels of Detail web page.

The Basic CURF can be accessed on CD-ROM and through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). The Expanded CURF can be accessed through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL).

Any questions regarding access to microdata can be forwarded to microdata.access@abs.gov.au or phone (02) 6252 7714.

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